

Bonds' solo shot over the wall in right-center gave his hometown fans yet another reason to cheer and celebrate him and forget — for this night at least — the suspicions that steroids fueled his pursuit of the Hammer.

"This record is not tainted at all. At all. Period," Bonds said late Tuesday night.

Next up for the 43-year-old Bonds? He hopes it's reaching 3,000 hits, and he plans to play in 2008 and beyond, as long as his body allows it.

He has 2,915 hits now.

"I haven't gotten there yet, but I want it," Bonds said of 3,000.

Bonds' milestone came on the three-year anniversary of Greg Maddux's 300th victory in this stadium and the fifth anniversary of players agreeing to drug testing.

A grand jury is investigating whether Bonds perjured himself when he testified in the BALCO case that he hadn't knowingly taken performance-enhancing drugs.

Someone asked whether the grand jury had come up in his conversation with the President.

"Are you serious? Are you dead serious? It never ends," Bonds said.

When Bonds arrived at the stadium, he was making his way through the quiet hallway from the players' parking lot to the clubhouse when a female ballpark worker saw him.

"You did it!" she said, and Bonds smiled and acknowledged her.

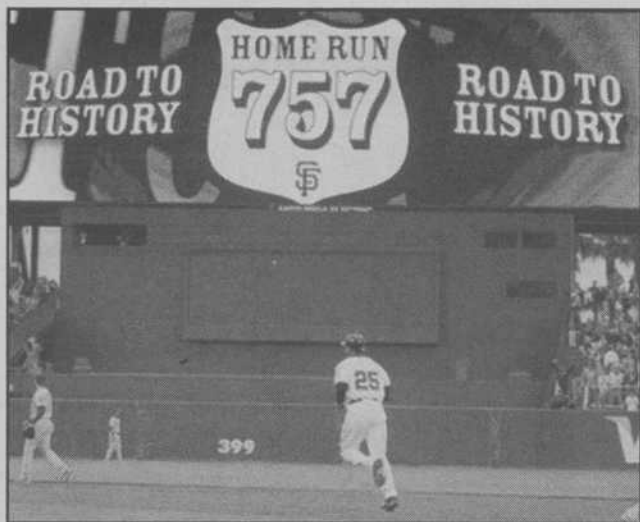
The record has meant so much to everybody, especially those with a front-row

seat to witness history — like Bonds' teammates.

"We're all cherishing this moment," Mark Sweeney

said. "We're all happy for him and to be a part of it. It was a special night for San Francisco."

"All I can say for the 24 guys in this locker room, it's a moment we'll remember. It's part of baseball history."



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds runs the bases after hitting his 757th career home run off Washington Nationals' Tim Redding during the first inning of a game Wednesday in San Francisco. Bonds is now baseball's home run king.

Bonds

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home run chart.

The Yankees third baseman reached 500 at age 32 and is far ahead of Bonds' pace.

"I'm not trying to set any bars. Alex will break my record," Bonds said, standing at his locker with a much smaller swarm of reporters than he's faced in recent weeks.

"He's young enough to catch anybody. Like I said, I'm rooting for him. He got through one. Each one gets a little bit tougher."

Would he campaign for them to be teammates somewhere?

"I don't have recruiting powers," Bonds said.

It took him a while to wind down from all the excitement surrounding this feat.

His wife, Liz, sported a black tee-shirt reading, "The King and I," on the front. And Bonds had his two daughters, Shikari and Aisha, son Nikolai, his mother, Pat, and a sister to celebrate the moment.

Not to mention Hall of Fame godfather, Willie Mays, his agent, two of his trainers, a pair of publicists

and many other friends thrilled to be part of it.

Some fans watched the team photo unfold from the peek-a-boo knothole area beyond the fence from where the picture was shot.

"Barry!" one person hollered.

"I'm just tickled to death for him," Leyland said. "What I feel is different than anyone else might feel. I have a personal relationship with him. I was his first manager and I raised him."

Bonds' received a call from President Bush the morning after his record-breaking homer.

"He said congratulations. He said it was great to have my kids there, my family there," Bonds recalled of the conversation.

"With his father being famous as well, he understood the importance of my father. He said it was an outstanding achievement."

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